

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /077 W
-----017215 220658Z /17

R 201115Z JUN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6366
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, IZ, PL, IS
SUBJECT: IRAQI RELATIONS WITH POLAND

REF: (A) WARSAW 4662 (B) BAGHDAD 1101 (NOTAL)

1. AS SUGGESTED BY AMEMBASSY WARSAW (REF A), IRAQ'S SUDDEN
PRESS ATTACK ON POLAND (REF B) MAY HAVE BEEN A REACTION TO
PUBLIC GESTURES TOWARD ISRAEL AND JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS
ABROAD RATHER THAN THE RESULT OF SOLID INDICATIONS
OF AN IMPENDING RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

2. POLISH AMBASSADOR ZEBROWSKI SAYS THAT HE HAD A FIERY
EXCHANGE LAST MONTH WITH UNSPECIFIED MFA OFFICIALS, WHO
CALLED HIM IN TO EXPRESS STRONG DISSATISFACTION WITH
ACTIVITIES IN POLAND RELATED TO THE AUSCHWITZ PAVILION
AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING.
ZEBROWSKI ADMITTED THAT HE CAME VERY CLOSE TO BEING
UNDIPLOMATIC. HE SAID HE POINTED OUT THAT THE POLISH
GOVERNMENT COULD DECIDE HOW TO HANDLE THE
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COMMEMORATION OF EVENTS IN WHICH SO MANY POLES
DIED WITHOUT ANY ADVICE FROM IRAQ. THESE CEREMONIES
WERE PURELY INTERNAL MATTERS, AND WHERE SOME OF THE
PEOPLE CAME FROM OR THE NATURE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS OR
POLITICAL BELIEFS WERE OF NO CONCERN WHATEVER TO
THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT.

3. ZEBROWSKI BECAME SOMEWHAT EMOTIONAL ON THE SUBJECT WHILE RELATING THE FOREGOING, AND EVIDENTLY FEELS QUITE STRONGLY ABOUT BOTH THE POLISH NATURE OF THE EVENTS THEMSELVES AND THE CRUDE IRAQI EFFORT TO INTERJECT POLITICAL OVERTONES. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE BELGIANS AND THE DUTCH WERE CALLED IN FOR PROTESTS ALONG THE SAME GENERAL LINES OVER ACTIVITIES IN THOSE COUNTRIES RELATED TO ISRAEL'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY, AND DELIVERED ESSENTIALLY THE SAME REPLIES AS DID ZEBROWSKI.)

3. WHY THE POLES HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR PUBLIC EXCORIATION IS STILL UNCLEAR. THERE IS A TEMPTATION TO EXPLAIN IT ON THE BASIS OF THE IRAQI PENCHANT OF STRIKING OUT WILDLY IF AROUSED, AND ZEBROWSKI'S MEETINGS, AS REPORTED BY HIM, COULD CONCEIVABLY BE PART OF THE CAUSE.
PECK

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Message Attributes

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